

## **HIV/AIDS**

In just twenty years, HIV/AIDS has emerged as one of the world's most feared diseases. Americans are learning how to avoid infection; nevertheless, new cases continue to appear. The good news is that BRFSS data indicates that more South Carolinians are being tested for HIV. Hopefully, as HIV positive individuals learn of their status, steps will be taken to protect others from the virus, ultimately reducing the number of future HIV/AIDS cases.

### ***Have Median or High Risk of Getting Infected by HIV***

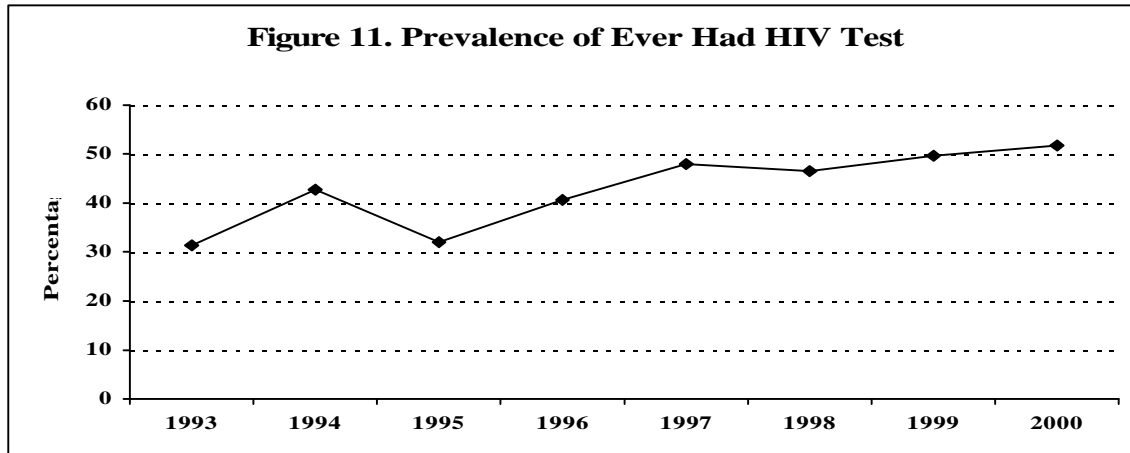
To assess how South Carolinians feel about their chances of being infected with the virus that causes AIDS, the BRFSS asked respondents to rate their risk. Overall, 6.3 percent of respondents said that they felt their risk of infection was either medium or high. At 7.2 percent, more male respondents rated their risk as high or medium than females (5.4 percent). BRFSS data indicates that 9.5 percent of blacks judged their risk to be medium or high, significantly higher than whites (5.1 percent). Of the four race-gender groups, black males seemed to feel the greatest risk of HIV/AIDS infection, with 11.6 percent rating their risk as high or medium. White females felt they had the lowest risk with only 4.3 percent indicating that their risk of infection was at least medium.

### ***Encourage Condom Use***

Overall, 88.7 percent of parents reported that they encouraged their sexually active teen-aged sons and daughters to use condoms. About 94 percent of black males and females encourage condom use among their teen-aged sons and daughters, while only 84.2 percent of white males reported that they encouraged their teen-aged children to use condoms. About 87 percent of whites encouraged condom use compared to 94 percent of blacks.

### ***Ever Tested for HIV***

About 52 percent of BRFSS respondents said they had been tested for HIV, with females more likely to submit to the test than males. At 56.5 percent, more blacks were tested for HIV than whites, of whom 49.4 percent said they had been tested. Black males had the highest prevalence of HIV testing with 56.8 percent of respondents claiming to have been tested, compared to 44.5 percent of white males. Roughly 56 percent of black females were tested for HIV/AIDS compared to slightly more than 53 percent of white females. The prevalence of South Carolinians who have been tested for HIV has risen from 30 percent in 1993 to almost 52 percent in 2000.

**Table 11. Prevalence of Knowledge and Practices to Prevent HIV Infection, 2000**

	At Risk of Getting HIV Infection			Encourage Condom Use			Ever Test for HIV		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
<b>Overall</b>	6.3	5.1	7.4	88.7	87.4	90.1	51.7	48.9	54.4
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	7.2	5.3	9.1	86.9	84.7	89.1	48.1	43.6	52.7
Female	5.4	4.2	6.6	90.5	89.0	92.1	54.4	51.1	57.8
<b>Race</b>									
White	5.1	3.9	6.3	86.7	85.0	88.4	49.4	46.1	52.6
Black	9.5	6.7	12.3	94.0	91.9	96.0	56.5	51.2	61.8
<b>Race and Sex</b>									
White Male	5.9	3.9	7.9	84.2	81.4	86.9	44.5	39.4	49.7
White Female	4.3	3.0	5.5	89.3	87.3	91.3	53.3	49.2	57.3
Black Male	11.6	6.5	16.8	93.7	90.2	97.3	56.8	47.3	66.3
Black Female	7.8	4.9	10.6	94.2	91.9	96.5	56.3	50.2	62.5
<b>Age</b>									
18-24	9.5	5.3	13.8	95.5	93.2	97.9	54.0	46.1	61.9
25-34	6.5	4.3	8.8	92.3	90.0	94.5	71.3	66.0	76.7
35-44	5.4	3.6	7.2	87.6	85.0	90.3	54.0	48.7	59.3
45-54	6.8	4.6	9.1	85.7	82.3	89.1	40.5	35.2	45.8
55-64	2.7	1.0	4.3	81.6	77.4	85.8	36.4	29.9	42.8
<b>Education</b>									
<High School	10.1	5.2	15.0	92.5	89.0	96.1	55.1	47.4	62.8
HS graduate	5.8	3.9	7.7	91.0	89.0	93.0	48.9	44.4	53.5
Some College	6.3	4.3	8.3	88.9	86.3	91.6	52.5	46.9	58.2
College graduate	5.2	3.5	6.9	83.8	80.9	86.8	53.8	48.5	59.0
<b>House Hold Income</b>									
<\$25,000	7.9	4.9	10.8	92.4	90.2	94.7	53.6	48.4	58.8
\$25,000-\$49,999	6.6	4.8	8.4	90.8	88.8	92.9	54.3	49.7	58.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	6.4	3.8	9.1	85.1	81.4	88.8	48.9	41.5	56.2
\$75,000+	3.3	0.9	5.7	83.7	79.4	88.1	44.6	36.6	52.5
<b>Employment</b>									
Employed	6.5	5.2	7.8	89.2	87.7	90.7	51.0	47.7	54.2
Unemployed	10.1	3.2	17.1	94.5	90.0	99.0	61.2	49.3	73.0
Others	2.6	0.5	4.8	84.3	80.3	88.4	47.4	40.6	54.1
Unable to work	8.6	2.0	15.1	88.0	81.3	94.7	59.9	49.5	70.3